

It is possible to make the common acts of daily life religious; for religion consists not wholly nor chiefly in formal acts of service, in singing hymns and making prayers and preaching sermons, but in making the sphere of our activity as large as possible and there making it all tell for God.

If giving a cup of water in His name be a religious act, then sweeping a room or plowing a field may be religious acts if done from a sense of duty and a desire to please Him. The little acts of life become illuminated, glorified when done for His sake. They are not common any more, but grand and religious. Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord. It is that that transfigures and beautifies what would otherwise be common drudgery. Look up as you work, my brother. One end of the ladder Jacob saw was on earth, the other was in Heaven. We are all climbing the ladder of life, the rounds are the years and we cannot stand still. Unfortunate is the man whose ladder is prostrate on the earth; he proceeds from round to round but he gets no higher, no nearer to Heaven. Let your plans reach out and up; make Heaven the end and object. This world is all too small for the unfolding possibilities of a soul.

Jesus sighed as he was about to heal the afflicted man, not because the work was distasteful to him, for he was no miser of his mercy, his sigh was half a prayer. He sighed because he pitied the man. Marvelous sympathy is that, Jesus weeping at the grave of Lazarus and sighing at the sight of a deaf mute. He knows how to sympathize with suffering humanity for he was once clothed in the garment of flesh. My suffering brother, he has sympathy for you. He knows about that poor tired overworked body of yours; he knows about the shooting pains and the aching head, the long drawn out agony of your suffering existence. Our tear drops do not fall unnoticed; he knows the depth of a childless mother's grief; he knows of the bitterness of an orphan's sorrow; he knows about the disappointments and troubles which rest as heavy as lead on our hearts, and he pities us. There is an answering throb in his own great heart. The sigh of Jesus meant grief

at the effects of sin. He saw not only the closed ears and the tied tongue, but he saw the darkened mind and the impressed soul. Then he said *Be opened* and the cure was complete.

Washington C. H. Ohio, Aug. 13, 1894.

#### TRAITS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

BY S. B. GRISSE.

The subject may be divided into three parts, namely, 1. Faith in God. 2. Love for the brethren. 3 Sacrifice for the cause. Each of which can be applied individually to ourselves. Faith in God when man is rightly possessed certainly leads us to love the brethren. And love for each other, will lead to the point where we must make sacrifices for the cause. While there are a great many kinds of faith, yet we have but one Christian faith and this must be centered upon Christ and his word. Other foundation than this can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus. But let us see how we are to acquire this faith in Christ. I am astonished at the argument of some, that is to say, faith is a direct revelation from God; if this were so where does the argument come in of the apostle Paul, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. x, 17. Notice the 14th verse. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

We are inclined to think when the gospel, the whole gospel is preached uncompromisingly. God will see that it falls in good soil; we have never known it to fail yet and we have faith enough in God to work to this end. It is true if a farmer wants to raise a good crop he must sow good clean wheat, and if we expect to sow good gospel seed into the hearts of men it must be brought from pure gospel authority. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, through the minister from God, or his word. After we have learned what faith is and its source, it is necessary that we examine ourselves whether we be in the faith or not. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. xiii, 5. Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves. We learn from this that

the gospel is our measuring rule to measure our life, and if our life is in harmony with the teachings and precepts of the gospel it is evident that the spirit of God is in us and our spirits will bear witness with God's spirit that we are the Sons of God. We might add many more words to this subject, but space forbids, but with reverence to the gospel and its teaching we shall defend it and it alone, applying the last and the great commission that the Saviour has given. Teaching all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father etc. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you always even to the end of the world.

Touching the second thought of our subject, it is true that love, true christian love is the bond of Christianity.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another. The spirit of jealousy manifested in the hearts of some and acted out as such, has been and is, one of the greatest wrongs that can exist in a congregation. How often have I seen this manifested when the adoption of some measure was called for, when one had his ideas, others had theirs; and one was cut out of establishing his way. Then comes up also the great duty, and one of vital importance, upon which hangs a part of our salvation and that is the spirit of forgiveness. If ye forgive not men their trespasses neither will your heavenly father forgive you yours. Soon we will be in the midst of conference where each will give his views, which is right, and must be; but let not the spirit of strife be manifested. Let brotherly love flow without dissimulation. Some time ago I saw a report from one of our Indiana churches stating they would not send any delegates only their pastor, for reasons that former conferences, and reading matter is not altogether what some think it should be. This seems to me is hardly right. The spirit of carnality worketh in such. If things do not altogether suit us let's take hold and seek a remedy which can only be done with a good will to do our part and God will do his and good results are sure to follow. Let us forgive in order that we may be forgiven.

The sacrifice for the cause is another